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GEOGRAPHIC MEMORANDUM

SPECIFIED SOVIET CITIES

CIA/RR G/I 59-38

June 1959

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SPECIFIED SOVIET CITIES

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Historical

A city of little or no historical, cultural, or scientific significance. The only educational establishment of note is the Kazakh Women's Teachers Institute. Aktyubinsk is primarily a food-processing (livestock and grain) and light industrial center; industries of special interest include an X-ray apparatus plant, a ferroalloys (nickel and chrome) plant several miles to the northwest, a tractor and automobile spare parts plant, and a vodka distillery.

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 2. Kzakhskaya SSR, Moscow, 1957.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952. Shabad, Theodore. Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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Historicel

A new city (founded in 1937) almost wholly devoted to the mining and processing of copper and molybdenum. (The copper deposit is 20 miles to the northeast of the city.) An industry of minor importance is fishing (primarily carp and perch) in Lake Balkhash.

Cultural

The only point of some cultural significance is a botanical garden.

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume. Kazakhakaya SSR, Moscow, 1957.

Columbia Lippincott Cazetteer of the World, New York, 1952. Shabad, Theodore, Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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Historical

Barnaul was founded in 1738 as a center of silver and copper smelting. Here worked K.K. Polzunov, inventor of the steam engine, and P.K. Frolov, builder of the world's first railroad (both statements according to the Russians). This city was the site of the first soda factory in Russia, closed in 1898. It is now the capital of Altayskiy Kray.

Cultural

Altayskiy Kray Agricultural Exhibition.

The oldest regional studies museum in Siberia, comprising exhibits on both the history and natural history of Altayskiy Kray.

Theater of the People's Art (performances each Monday).

House of the People's Art, which sponsors participation in all forms of creative art.

Scientific

Institute of Agricultural Machinery.

One of the oldest meteorological stations in Siberia, founded in 1838.

Fruit-and-berry, vegetable, and veterinary experiment stations. Economic

Barnaul is a center of machine building, textile manufacturing, and food processing, a railroad center, and a transshipment point for logs and lumber. Among the machines produced are steam boilers, Diesel engines, agricultural machines, presses, machine tools, and geologic equipment. The largest cotton textile factory in Siberia was built here in 1934; artificial fibers are now also produced.

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Foods processed include flour, meat, milk, vegetable oils, fish, yeast, vodka, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Barnaul has both ship-repair and shipbuilding yards. It produces furniture, matches, and naval stores, based on the lumbering industry of Altayskiy Kray. Sheepskin coats, shoes and other leather products, felt boots, and carpets are other important finished products.

Population

1926 -- 73,900

1939 -- 148,100

1959 -- 320,000

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 4.

Pomus, M.I. Zapadnaya Sibir', Moscow, 1956.

Po Vodnym Putyam Aziatskoy Chasti SSSR, Moscow, 1958.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York; 1952.

Shabad, Theodore Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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Historical

The center of a region of very ancient civilization, this city was a part of the Kokend khanate until its capture by the Russians in 1862.

Theater of Opera and Ballet (native as well as classical Western productions).

House-Museum of M.V. Frunze (the house where Frunze lived).

Kirgiz Bramatic Theater (native as well as Western productions).

Educational

Kirgiz State University.

A boarding school for deaf-and-duab children.

Scientific

Academy of Sciences of the Kirgiz SSR.

Economic

An important food-processing center (meat, flour, canned goods, wine), Frunze also produces machine tools, textiles, and leather goods and processes work and behaver. In the vicinity of the city there is extensive growing of augar beets, fiber plants, and essential oils plants.

Sources

Bol'sheys Sovetskara Entsiklopediye, 2nd edition, volume 45.

Kertavov, M.M., Franzenskaye Colest', Franze, 1956.

Pavlenkov, V.F. and Ryazantsev, S.N., Kirgisskeya SSR, Moscow, 1956.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shebad, Diecocos, Generaphy of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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IRKUTSK

Historical

Founded in 1661, this city was after the beginning of the 18th century an important center of trade with China and Mongolia. In 1803 it became the seat of the general-governorship for much of Siberia. Important architectural monuments include the Spasskaya Tserkov' (1706), the Krestovskaya Tserkov' (1758), the Gorbatyy Dom, and the Belyy Dom (both late 18th century).

Cultural

House of the People's Art (examples of native craftsmanship). Regional Studies Museum.

Historical Museum.

Art Museum.

Educational

Institute of Foreign Languages (specializing in Fast Asian languages). Scientific-research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology.

Scientific

East Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, comprising departments of geology, energetics, chemistry, biology, and geography-economics.

East Siberian Branch of All-Union Geographic Society.

A seismic station.

An astronomical observatory.

Economic

Irkutsk is important as a producer of gold-dredging machinery, plywood, and wood pulp. Machine tools, leather, and textiles are also

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produced, and both aircraft and sutomobiles are assembled. Industries of special interest are mica processing and the production of documentary films.

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 18.

Bendrikh, G.A. and Ryabtsovskiy, M.I., Stroynshchiyaya Irkutsk,
Irkutsk, 1956.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952. Shabad, Theodore, Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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Historical

A city of great historical importance: capital of the Tatar Kazan' khanate from the 15th century until its capture by the Russians. Sixteenth-century Kremlin still stands, including the Blagoveshchenskaya Tserkov', Spasskaya Bashnya, Bashnya Syumbeki, and the Sobor Petra 1 Pavla.

Cultural

Lenin House-Museum, where Lenin lived as a university student.

Gor'kiy House-Museum, where Gor'kiy lived in the 1880's.

Tatar State Theater of Opera and Ballet (native as well as classical Western productions).

Tatar State Academic Drematic Theater imeni G. Kamala (native as well as Western productions).

State Museum of the Tatar ASSR (history, nature, and art of the republic).

Educational

Kezan' State University imeni V.I. Ul'yanova-Lenina (well known in mathematics, chemistry, and astronomy).

Kazan' Institute of Engineer-Builders in the petroleum industry. Scientific

Kazan' Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, comprising departments of chemistry, physics, geology, biology, and languages.

Economic

Kazen' is the largest fur-processing center in the USSR. Other important products include ships, eircreft, agricultural machinery, clothing and shoes, typewriters, and calculating machines. A large chemical industry produces, among other things, photographic film and explosives.

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Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 19.

Povolzh'ye, Moscow, 1957.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore, Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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Historical

Although it was founded in 1628 as a fort, Krasnoyarsk is of minor historical significance. It is, however, celebrated by Russian writers as the temporary residence of Lenin and Stalin, both of whom spent a few weeks in the city on their way to and from exile.

Cultural

House-Museum of I.V. Stalin, where he lived on his return from exile.

House-Museum of V.I. Surikov, where this noted Russian artist was born and lived.

Regional Studies Museum, comprising exhibits on both the history and natural history of Krasnoyarskiy Kray.

Scientific and Educational

Siberian Forestry-Lumbering Institute.

Scientific Research Institute of Forestry and Lumbering.

Institute for Improving the Qualifications of Forestry and Lumbering Workers.

Economic

River system, a supply base for the region of the lower Yenisey, and headquarters of the Yenisey River fleet; its river passenger station is the second largest in the USSR. It is a center of shipbuilding and ship repair, locomotive and railroad car repair, and machine building (e.g., electric cranes, combines, lumbering equipment).

Near the city is the largest aluminum plant in the USSR. Other

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products include: metal consumer goods, building materials (cement, slate, brick, lime, concrete blocks), lumber and wood products (pre-fabricated houses, furniture, paper, cellulose), clothing, shoes and other leather goods, felt boots, photographic film, graphite, alcohol, and various foods (e.g., dairy products, flour, yeast, wine). One of the largest bridges in the USSR, over two kilometers long and 24 meters wide, crosses the (enisey at Krasnoyarsk.

Population

1926 -- 72,300

1939 -- 190,000

1959 -- 409,000

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 23.

Po Vodnym Putyam Aziatskoy Chasti SSSR, Moscow, 1958.

Naumov, G.V., and G.M. Chudinov, Sovetskaya Yakutiya, Moscow, 1956.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore. Geography of the USSR, New York, 1931.

Approved For Release 2000/05/11 : CIA-RDR79-01002A000200150001-3 KURCAN

General

Although it was founded in 1616, Kurgan is of little historical, scientific, or educational significance. The only cultural establishment of note is a regional studies museum, comprising exhibits on both the history and natural history of Kurganskaya Oblast'.

Economic

Kurgan has experienced considerable economic growth during and since World War II. As the center of an agricultural region it is important both as an agricultural processor and as a manufacturer of agricultural and food-processing equipment (e.g., canned meat, sausage, flour, butter, yeast, wine, and beer; leather, shoes, and textiles; threshing mockines, seeders, hay presses, silage cutters, well diggers; centrifuges and equipment for grain elevators and flour mills). Other products include woodworking, roadbuilding, electrical, and printing machinery. There are railroad repair shops in the city.

Fopulation

1926 -- 28,000

1939 -- 53,200

1959 -- 145,000

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 24.

Pozus, M.I. Zapadnaya Sibir!, Moscow, 1956.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore. Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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Historical

The Fortress of Samara -- the first Russian settlement on the left bank of the Volga -- was established in 1586 to protect the southwest border of Russia. Gradually, during the 17th century, the city lost its strategic position, and the trading function became dominant. In 1851 the city became the official administrative center of the region, and developed rapidly after the extension of railroads through the city to the east. Samara was the center of an active revolutionary group in the early 1900's, one of the leaders of which was V.V. Kuybyshev, after whom the city was subsequently (1935) renamed. Government offices, relocated from Moscow, turned the city into a boom town during the war years. Today Kuybyshev is a focus of transport and heavy industry, and the administrative center of Kuybyshevskaya Oblast'.

Cultural

The low plateau above the right bank of the Volga, the former site of the Samara fortress and the old city which surrounded it, today houses the administrative and cultural section of the city. Museums include

1) the house where V.I. Lenin lived during the 1890's, 2) the regional studies museum and 3) the M.F. Frunze museum -- all of which house exhibits dealing with the revolutionary history of the area. There is also a nuseum depicting the life and work of the writer Maxim Gor'kiy, who lived in Samara in the 1890's.

Scientific

North of the city center are the gardens of the Kuybyshev Berry and Fruit Experimental Station, where new types of fruit trees, specially

KUYEYSHEV (1 of 3)
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adapted to the climatic conditions of the Middle Volga Regions, have been developed.

East of the city near Kinel' is the Agricultural Institute which trains specialists in agriculture and water economy.

The Experimental Agricultural Station which has developed droughtresisting types of grain and oil producing plants also lies east of the city.

Economic

Food processing and light industry are located in the old part of the city. Here also are the city's largest thermal power plant, the river port, and the main railroad station.

North of this center are the industrial enterprises built in prewar years -- the carburetor and bearing plants, silicate brickyard, and connected housing settlements.

To the south and east lie new industrial sections engaged in machine building and the production of building materials. A large refinery has been constructed near the Kryash station, along with plants manufacturing drilling tools and metal parts for the oil producing industry.

Resorts and extensive orchards are located on the north and east outskirts of the city.

Population

1926 -- 172,000

1939 -- 390,000

1959 -- 806,000

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Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entaiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 23.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Povolzh'ye, Moscow, 1957.

Shabad, Theodore. Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

KUYBYSHEV (3 of 3)

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Eleterical

A relatively new city, founded in 1893 as a result of the building of the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

Cultural

Novosibirsk State Theater of Opera and Ballet -- one of the largest in the Soviet Union and the largest in Siberia.

Oblest Regional Studies Museum.

Museum imeni Kirova (in the house where Kirov lived and carried out his revolutionary work).

Educational.

Siberian Department of the Academy of Sciences of the USSE, a new "scientific city" several miles south of Movosibirsk proper in and from which will be carried out all activities of the Academy in Siberia and the Far East.

Enstitute of Water-transport Engineers.

Brench of the All-Union Institute of Commercial Hunting.

Economic

Novosibirsk produces a great variety of manufactured products: electrical generating equipment, prefabricated houses, diesel trucks, agricultural and mining machinery, heavy machine tools, clothing, plastics, soap, perfume, instruments, abrasives, radios, etc. Both steel and chromium are also produced. It is a center of livestock, grain, and lumber processing, automobile assembly, and ship repair. Its book publishing industry is the largest in Siberia. The port of Movosibirsk is a major trans-shipment point for wood, grain, coal,

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one of the longest in the USSR. In the vicinity of the city there is extensive hothouse horticulture.

Sources

Bol'shaye Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 30.

Pomus, M.I. Zapadnaya Sibir', Moscov, 1956.

Po Vodnym Putyam Aziatskoy Chasti SSSR, Moscov, 1958.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore, Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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4 storicel

A city long important as a Tsarist administrative center and as a focus of activity during the Revolution and Civil War. Under the Imperial Government, Omsk was the administrative center for all the steppe and wooded steppe of Siberia and northern Kazakhstan. During the Civil War it was the seat of the counterrevolutionary temporary Siberian government and then of Kolchak's government. In 1920-21 the Siberian Revolutionary Committee governed from Omsk.

Cultural

Regional Studies Museum, comprising sections on the Russian settlement of Siberia, on the growth of Omsk. and on the revolutionary movement in Omsk. Educational

1

A river workers' institute.

Economi e

A major grain- and livestock-processing center and site of a recently completed gigantic oil refinery, Omsk also produces agricultural machinery, automobiles (assembly only), tires and other rubber goods, locomotives, and ships. Products of special interest include rope, tobacco, and maps. The city's port has the most extensive trans-shipment facilities on the Artysh River.

Sources

Bol'shaya Govetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 31.

Pomus, M.I. Zapadnaya Sibir', Moscow. 1956.

Po Vodnym Putyan Aziatskoy Chasti SSSR, Moscow, 1958.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Chabad, Theodore, Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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Founded in 1721 as a metallurgical plant, Sverdlovsk is one of the oldest metalworking centers in the Urals.

Cultural

Geological Museum (known world-wide as the best museum of Urals geology).

Oblast Regional Studies Museum, comprising sections on the history of the region and on the Soviet period.

Museum of Ya.M Sverdlov (commemorating Sverdlov's revolutionary work).

Oblast Industrial-Technical Exhibition.

Ural People's Choir (songs of the native peoples of the Urals).
A 50-meter ski jump.

Educational

Urals State University.

Urals Forestry Institute.

Scientific

Urals Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

A number of first-rate institutes dealing with mining, metallurgy, metal-working, and machine building, including: Sverdlovsk Mining Institute, Institute, of Ferrous Metals, Institute of Refractories, and Institute of the Physics of Metals.

Institute of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Diseases.

Economic

The center of Urals heavy industry, Sverdlovsk produces mining, drilling, chemical, and metallurgical machinery, machine tools, electrical equipment, high-quality steels, ball bearings, chemicals, aircraft motors, railroad cars, wood pulp and paper, and a wide variety of durable consumer

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goods. Plants of special interest include several which manufacture jewelry from precious and semi-precious stones of the Urals and two publishing houses specializing in metallurgy and machine building. Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 38.

Sverdlovsk: Spravochnik, Sverdlovsk, 1956.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore, Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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Matorical

Site of a flourishing civilization in the first and second centuries B.C.

A major pre-Revolutionary trading center with China, Persia, Russia, India, etc.

Cultural

State Museum of Art of the Uzbek SSR.

Museum of History of the Peoples of Uzbekistan.

Museum of Natural History of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR.

Academic Uzbek Theater of Drama (native as well as Western productions).

Theater of Musical Comedy and Drama (native as well as Western

productions).

Educational

Theatrical-artistic Institute.

Pedagogic Institute of Foreign Languages (specializing in South and East Asian languages).

Central Asian State University.

Institute of Cotton Growing.

Institute of Engineers for Irrigation and the Mechanization of Agriculture.

Scientific

An astronomical observatory.

A botanical garden.

Economic

Tashkent, one of the largest cotton textile centers in the USSR, also produces agricultural machinery, paper, abrasives, clothing and

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Meat, grain, fruits, and vegetables all are processed in large quantities. The city's publishing industry comprises 7 publishing houses, 4 branch publishing houses, 14 newspapers, and 14 magazines.

Sources

Pol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 42.

Tashkent: Kratkiy Spravochnik, Tashkent, 1958.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore, Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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Historical

Tyumen', the oldest Russian city in Siberia, was founded in 1586 on the site of Chingi-Tura, capital of one of the Tatar khanates. Beginning in the 17th century it was an important transit point on the trade route between European Russia and China, and in the second half of the 19th century it was the site of many major trade fairs.

Cultural

Regional Studies Museum, comprising exhibits on both the history and natural history of Tyumenskaya Oblast'.

House of the People's Art, which sponsors participation in all forms of creative art.

Economic

Tyumen' serves as a major transshipment point between the railroad and the Ob' River system; it is especially important as a supply base for the region of the lower Irtysh and lower Ob'. It is a center of shipbuilding (tugs and barges) and repair. Construction, roadbuilding, woodworking, and forestry machinery and foundry equipment is manufactured in the city. Also important are lumber and wood products (e.g., prefabricated houses, furniture, veneer, skis, chemicals, resins and varnishes, boxes, and carts). The production of felt boots and sledges is of unusual interest. Other products include electrical equipment for tractors and automobiles, plastics, drugs, scales, bricks, shoes, sheepskin coats, knit goods, carpets, and various foods (smoked and canned fish, meat, and dairy products).

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Population

1926 -- 50,300

1939 -- 75,500

1959 -- 150,000

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 43.

Pomus, M.I. Zapadnaya Sibir', Moscow, 1956.

Po Vodnym Putyam Aziatskoy Chasti SSSR, Moscow, 1958.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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Historical

Founded on its present site in 1683, Yakutsk was long the militaryadministrative and trade center of northeastern Siberia. It was the
base for much of the Russian colonization of the Lena basin, the Far
East (especially Kamchatka and the Okhotsk Sea region) and the eastern
Arctic coast. In the 19th and early 20th centuries it was an important place of exile. It is now the capital of the Yakutskaya ASSR,
which comprises one-seventh of the USSR.

Cultural

Notable architecture includes a wooden tower from the 1683 fort and the 1707 governor's house, first brick building in Yakutsk.

Regional Studies Museum, comprising exhibits on both the history and natural history of the Yakutskaya ASSR.

Museum of Fine Arts, with special emphasis on Yakut arts

Yakutsk Musical-Dramatic Theater, featuring Yakut performances.

Two newspapers and one magazine in the Yakut language.

Pushkin Library, comprising about one million volumes.

Scientific and Educational

Yakutak Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, which comprises the institutes of biology; history, languages, and literature; and geology; a department of economics and geography; a laboratory of cosmic rays; and the northeast section of the Institute of Permafrost.

Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture.

A university which opened in 1956.

Yakutsk is the base for many summer scientific expeditions, some

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of them sponsored by organizations in other parts of the country.

The city water supply is taken from underneath the permafrost (more than 600 feet below the surface), heated, and continuously circulated.

Econom'e

Yakutsk is of primary importance as headquarters of river transportation in the Lena River basin. It has ship repair yards as well as facilities for other types of mechanical repair. Lumber and some wood products (e.g., pre-fabricated houses) are manufactured; the wood-chemical industry is important. Other products include: bricks and lime, shoes and other leather goods, glass and refractories, and beer.

Population

1926 -- 10,600

1939 -- 52,900

1959 -- 74,000

Sources

Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, 2nd edition, volume 49.

Po vodnym Putyam Aziatskoy Chasti SSSR, Moscow, 1958.

Naumov, G.V. and G.M. Chudinov, Sovetskaya Yakutiya, Moscow, 1956.

Pokshishevskiy, V.V., Yakutiya: Priroda -- Lyudi -- Khozyaystvo,

Moscow, 1957.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, New York, 1952.

Shabad, Theodore. Geography of the USSR, New York, 1951.

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Chief, I/GM/RR

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18 June 1959

ATTH

Acting Chief, D/00/S

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Transmittel of Specified Soviet Cities, *
CIA/RR G/I 59-38

l. Transmitted herewith are 15 copies of the first part of the subject report, prepared by the Geography Division in secondance with the report includes data on the nine first-priority cities that were requested. As information is compiled on other cities, additional pages will be transmitted to you as part of this report.

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25X1C

- 2. To facilitate handling, the information on each city has been placed on a separate page. Since the information has been sempiled on an unclassified basis, the page pertaining to a specific city may be detached and disseminated as necessary for operational purposes.
- 3. The ditto masters will be retained in the Geography Division and additional copies will be available.

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Enclosure

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* The specific tities: Aktyubinsk, Balkhash, Frunze, Irkutsk, Kazan', Novosibirsk, Omsk, Sverdlovsk, Tashkent

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Chief, I/OW/RR

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13 July 1959

ATTN

Acting Chief, D/GG/S

25X1C

Transmittal of Specified Soviet Cities, CIA/RR G/I 79-30 -- second part

1. Transmitted herewith are 40 copies of the second part of the subject report, prepared by the deography Division in accordance with verbal request. This part includes data on five more first-priority cities -- Barnaul, Krasnoyarsk, Kurgan, Tyumen, and Yakutak. Population data have been added to the information previously supplied. As information is compiled on other cities, additional pages will be transmitted to you as part of this report.

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- 2. To facilitate handling, the information on each city has been placed on a separate page. Since the information has been compiled on an unclassified basis, the page pertaining to specific city may be detached and disseminated as necessary for operational purposes.
- 3. The ditto masters will be retained in the Geography Division and additional copies will be available.

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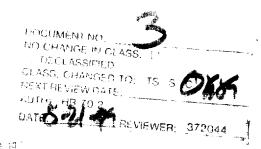
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